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For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guid-
ance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the begin-
ning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

(54) Title: CONTROLLED AND CONTINUED DELIVERY OF RIFAXIMIN AND/OR OTHER SUBSTANCES

(57) Abstract: A gum-like device is designed for the controlled and continued delivery of rifaximin, without producing the usually intense red coloration, for the resolution of the infections and the reduction of the inflammation in the oral cavity and in the laryngo-pharyngeal one. The device also protects either the gum or the dental apparatus from acute infections, from the infiltration and the stagnation of the food, and fights chronic infections such as in the periodontal pockets. Moreover, the device can be used to protect the gum from the traumatizing collision that the food exercises during the mastication.

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No

PCT/EP 03/12346

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
IPC 7 A61K9/00 A61K31/437

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 7 A61K

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, WPI Data, PAJ, BIOSIS, MEDLINE, EMBASE

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

| Category * | Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages | Relevant to claim No. |
|------------|---|-----------------------|
| X | EP 0 547 294 A (ALFA WASSERMANN SPA) 23 June 1993 (1993-06-23) page 2, line 49 - line 53 page 2, line 57 -page 4, line 1 examples claims | 1-33 |
| X | WO 96 40086 A (KANIOS DAVID P ;MANTELLE JUAN A (US); NOVEN PHARMA (US); GENTILE J) 19 December 1996 (1996-12-19) example page 29, line 24 claims | 1-33 |

☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

☒ Patent family members are listed in annex.

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- *O* document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- *P* document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

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Date of the actual completion of the international search

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C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

| Category * | Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages | Relevant to claim No. |
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| X | WO 99 15210 A (HOUZE DAVID ;MANTELLE JUAN (US); KANIOS DAVID (US); NOVEN PHARMA ()) 1 April 1999 (1999-04-01) examples page 20, line 17 claims | 1-33 |
| X | FR 6 300 M (LEPETIT S.A.) 9 September 1968 (1968-09-09) the whole document | 1-33 |
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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/EP 03/12346

Box I Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 1 of first sheet)

This International Search Report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. ☒ Claims Nos.:
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:

Although claims 9-24 are directed to a method of treatment of the human/animal body, the search has been carried out and based on the alleged effects of the compound/composition.
2. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they relate to parts of the International Application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful International Search can be carried out, specifically:
3. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

Box II Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:

1. ☐ As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers all searchable claims.
2. ☐ As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.
3. ☐ As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:
4. ☐ No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this International Search Report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

Remark on Protest

- ☐ The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.
- ☐ No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International Application No

PCT/EP 03/12346

| Patent document cited in search report | | Publication date | Patent family member(s) | Publication date |
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